

REMARKS

Claims 32-44 are newly presented for examination. Claims 1-31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

SUPPORT FOR THE NEW CLAIMS

The newly presented claims find support throughout the application as originally filed. More particularly support for claims 32-35 is found, *inter alia*, in claims 20-22 as originally filed. Claims 36-44 set forth a biocompatible matrix for immobilizing compounds of Formula I. Support for claims 36-44 is found, *inter alia*, on pages 15 to 23 and Figure 14. More particularly, support for a permeable coating of claim 37 is found on page 20, lines 12-14. Support for a chain extender of claim 38 is found on page 19, lines 27-32, bridging to page 20, lines 1-10. Support for the covalent attachment of Formula I to the polymer matrix in claim 39 is found on page 22, lines 14-26. Support for the various polymers of claim 40 is found on page 16, lines 6-7, and page 20, lines 12-20. Support for the acrylate polymer of claim 41 is found on page 16, line 7. Support for the various permeable coatings of claim 42, is found on page 20, lines 12-14. Support for the siloxane of claim 43 is found on page 17, lines 1-13. Support for the reactants of claim 44 is found on page 17, lines 14-29 and page 18, lines 7-27.

In addition, the specification has been amended to include the serial number of a related case, *i.e.*, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/749,754. This amendment relates to a formal matter and, thus, no new matter is introduced. The specification was also amended to include a comma after "(polyether ether ketone)" on page 30. In view of the foregoing support, Applicants believe no new matter has been introduced by the newly presented claims and foregoing amendments and respectfully request that they be entered.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request early action on the merits. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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